THE ISLAND BEACON

CHARLOTTETOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the **April 2026** edition of the Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club Newsletter! We'll try to keep you up-to-date with what's happening this month and any future events we're planning or are aware of. This newsletter is automatically distributed to club members, prospective future students who have reached out to us in the last year, and other interested amateur operators in the region. If you do not wish to receive these monthly newsletters, let us know and we can remove you from our distribution list. Alternatively, if you are not included on the mailing list, but would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, please reach out to our secretary.

April 2026 Club Meeting - Tuesday night April 7th, Stratford Town Centre

Happy Easter, everyone! This month's club meeting will be held Tuesday, April 7th, at the Stratford Town Centre. Start time: 7:00 P.M. As always, everyone is welcome to attend, not just club members. If you're a licensed radio operator and would like to become a member, or you're perhaps interested in becoming licensed and would like to find out more about us and the hobby, then please come and join us. We would love to meet you. For anyone who would like to become a member, membership dues are $30 for those who are not currently members of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). For RAC members, it's $20 for the year. Our students and graduates from the Fall 2025 class are automatically members of the club for 2026. Our meetings run from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (1900–2100) in the Southport room at the Stratford Town Centre on Shakespeare Drive. Alongside monthly club reports we usually enjoy an information exchange.

Visit to the Rustico Scouts

During the month of March, Doug Silliker VY2DS, Joe Nicholson VY2JTN, and Ken McCormick VY2RU made a visit to the Rustico Scouts. Their presentation and demo of ham radio was very well received. The Scouts are now hoping to do a JOTA and POTA event with them in the future.

Iroquois ARC Hamfest & Flea Market – April 4, 2026, Iroquois, ON (south of Ottawa)
Kick off the month with the Iroquois Amateur Radio Club's annual Hamfest and Flea Market. Located in Iroquois, ON, just south of Ottawa, this event is a great spot for those looking to browse a wide variety of new and used radio gear, components, and antennas. General admission is $5. Doors open at 8:00 A.M. for vendors and at 9:00 A.M. for the general public.

World Amateur Radio Day – April 18th, 2026
Saturday, April 18th, marks World Amateur Radio Day! This global event celebrates the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in Paris in 1925. It's a day for hams worldwide to take to the airwaves, demonstrating the importance of our hobby and its contribution to global communities. Keep an ear out for special event stations operating across all bands.

Durham Hamfest – April 18th, 2026, Pickering, ON
Running concurrently with World Amateur Radio Day is the Durham Hamfest in Pickering, ON. Hosted by the North Shore Amateur Radio Club, this event is one of the larger gatherings in the Greater Toronto Area, featuring a massive flea market, commercial vendors, and often technical seminars or forums. It's a must-visit for anyone traveling in the area that weekend. Admission is $10 (children under 12 are free), and doors are open at 9:00 A.M. https://durhamhamfest.com/

CRALL Hamfest 2026 – April 25th, 2026, St-Eustache (Montreal), QC
Closing out the month, the Club Radio Amateur Laval-Laurentides (CRALL) will host its 2026 Hamfest on Saturday, April 25th, in St-Eustache. Much like the WIARC event in March, this Montreal-area hamfest is well-attended and known for a diverse range of sellers and excellent opportunities to find those hard-to-reach parts for your summer projects. Tables are $10 each, admission is also $10, and doors open at 8:30 A.M. Vendors can enter at 7:00 A.M.

Contest Calendar - April
CQMM DX Contest – 0900Z, Apr 18 to 2359Z, Apr 19, 2026
Ontario QSO Party – 1800Z, Apr 18 to 0300Z, Apr 19 and 1200Z to 2000Z, Apr 19, 2026
World Amateur Radio Day – 0000Z, Apr 18 to 0000Z, Apr 19, 2026
Quebec QSO Party – 1300Z-2400Z, Apr 19, 2026
ARRL Rookie Roundup (SSB) – 1800Z to 2359Z, April 19, 2026
Also check out https://contestcalendar.com for other contests.

Meetings and Events Calendar - April
6: 2M Simplex net, at 8:00 P.M. (2000) on 146.550 MHz, hosted by Joel, VY2KW (to be confirmed)
7: CARC Monthly club meeting (in Stratford)
1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Wednesday night 2M net at 8:00 P.M. (2000) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)
2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Thursday night HF nets, on 3727 LSB (+/- QRM) at 8:00 P.M. (2000)
4, 11, 18, 25: Virtual Breakfast 2M nets, 8:00 A.M. (800) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)

4, 11, 18, 25: Actual real life breakfast at Sam's Restaurant in Charlottetown (121 St. Peters Rd), ~8:00 A.M. (800)

Future Events:
May 2, 2026: Rideau Lakes Hamfest (near Ottawa, ON)
June 6, 2026: Halifax Flea Market
Location: The Royal Canadian Legion, 2234 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley, NS
Time: Sellers may set up after 8 AM – Buyers allowed in after 10 AM
General Admission – $5.00
Seller Tables: $10.00 for a 3' X 6' selling space - 46 available, 23 with power. The Tables will be covered with paper which will be supplied by the Club. Tables reservations are going quickly.To reserve yours please contact Ken VE1PDL, kasprey@icloud.com or call/text 902-471-6443.
June 6, 2026: Kemptville Hamfest & Flea Market (near Ottawa, ON)
June 7, 2026 – Atlantic Canada QSO Party
June 28–29, 2026 – ARRL Field Day
July 11–12, 2026 – IARU HF World Championship
September 12, 2026 - Ottawa (Carp) 2026 Hamfest

Help Us Out! Do you have something you would like to contribute to this newsletter? Find us over on the club's Discord server under #newsletter, or drop us an email at secretary@charlottetownarc.com.